

VETO OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT BILL.

July 12, 1876.<sup>31</sup>

*To Hon. T. R. Bonner, Speaker of the House of Representatives:*

Sir.—I have the honor to return herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 64½, being "An Act to organize commissioners' courts and to define their jurisdiction and duties, and provide for vacancies therein," and respectfully ask its reconsideration.

The second proviso being that at the end of Section 5 of the bill, recognizes the right of the commissioners' court to create a bonded debt for the erection of jails, courthouses, and other public buildings. The Constitution provides specifically in Section 9, Article 8, for the levy and collection of a tax for the erection of public county buildings.

This provision was deemed ample by the framers of the Constitution, and is believed to be a selection of that mode of raising money for this purpose to the exclusion of all others, when the ordinary revenues will not furnish it.

Apart from the question of power in the Legislature to authorize the creation of bonded debts by the counties for the erection of public buildings, on which my convictions are clear, I would regard its exercise, if the power were admitted to reside in the Legislature, to the last degree inexpedient and unwise. Extravagance, speculation, peculation, and official corruption, excessive indebtedness, and eventually oppressive taxation have so often resulted from the grant of power to counties and cities to create bonded debts, and, in my judgment, the causes are extreme and rare in which it should be done; certainly no necessity exists in any county in Texas, or is likely to arise for the grant or exercise of such power, while the constitutional provision for the imposition of taxes is ample, and in its nature is self-protecting against abuse.

RICHARD COKE.

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<sup>31</sup>House Journal, 550.